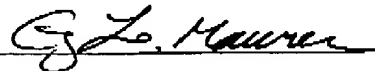


GLM/CAJ 03/22/05 366698
PATENTAttorney Reference Number 6115-58352-01
Application Number 09/925,514

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 22 2005****PLEASE DELIVER DIRECTLY TO EXAMINER George B. Davis****Fax No.:** (703) 746-7240**Total No. Pages:** 2 including this cover sheet**Message:** Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application is a proposed amendment. If you do not receive all pages or if you have problems receiving transmittal, please call Gregory L. Maurer at (503) 226-7391.**In re application of:** Scheurich et al.**Application No.** 09/925,514**Filed:** August 9, 2001**Confirmation No.** 4987**For:** SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
REFINING A DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS VIA EXECUTABLE
SEQUENCES**Examiner:** George B. Davis**Art Unit:** 2121**Attorney Reference No.** 6115-58352-01**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being facsimile transmitted to fax number (703) 746-7240 on the date shown below.

Attorney
for Applicant(s)Date Transmitted March 22, 2005**Proposed Claim Amendments**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview on March 9, 2005. Applicants believe the interview was helpful and now present proposed amendments to claims 1 and 23 for further consideration.

The Examiner is invited to call Gregory Maurer at (503) 226-7391 when this fax is received in order to discuss these proposed amendments.

Applicants also note that the three IDS submissions (August 9, 2001, November 8, 2002, and June 18, 2004) have not been marked as considered by the Examiner.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of refining a decision-making process based on a collection of data indicating a state, the method comprising:
defining a plurality of discrete executable directives, wherein the discrete executable directives comprise one or more directives operable to perform one or more queries on the collection of data, one or more analysis directives operable to diagnose a problem indicated by

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the state based at least on information derived from results of the queries, and one or more distribution directives operable to distribute a diagnosis of the problem;

processing the plurality of discrete executable directives, the processing comprising performing one or more of the queries on the collection of data, diagnosing a problem indicated by the state based at least on information derived from results of the processing of the one or more queries, and distributing a diagnosis of the problem and a user interface element indicating a possible reaction of a decision-maker to the diagnosis; and

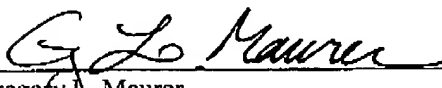
responsive to activation of the user interface element by a decision-maker, recording the decision-maker's reaction to the diagnosis.

23. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of refining a budgetary decision-making process related to an organization based on a collection of data indicating budgets and expenses related to cost centers, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of discrete executable directives, wherein the discrete executable directives comprise one or more directives operable to perform one or more queries on the collection of data to generate budget and expense information for the cost centers, one or more analysis directives operable to determine whether a cost center is on track to overrun its budget based at least on information derived from results of the queries, and one or more distribution directives operable to distribute a notification to a cost center manager responsible for the cost center indicating the overrun;

processing the plurality of discrete executable directives, the processing comprising performing one or more of the queries on the collection of data to generate budget and expense information for the cost centers, determining whether a cost center is on track to overrun its budget based at least on information derived from results of the processing of the one or more queries, and distributing a notification to a cost center manager responsible for the cost center indicating the overrun and a user interface element indicating a possible reaction of the cost center manager to the overrun; and

responsive to activation of the user interface element by the cost center manager, recording the cost center's reaction to the overrun.


Gregory L. Maurer
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March 22, 2005
Date